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Digital Episteme and Algorithmic Doxa: Ageing, Public Automation, and Institutional Policies in the Risk Society

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Abstract

This study examines the structural gap between the processes of demographic aging and the pace of the digitalization of public services, as well as the social implications of this gap for older adults. Grounded in Beck's theory of *risk society*, the concept of *digital episteme* derived from Foucault's concept of *episteme*, and the concepts of *algorithmic doxa* and *habitus* developed from Bourdieu's conceptualization of *doxa*, the study investigates the phenomenon of *epistemic vulnerability* emerging within the digital public sphere. Focusing on the case of Türkiye, the study analyzes the diffusion of integrated digital platforms such as e-Devlet, MHRS, and e-Nabız through current data from the Turkish Statistical Institute (TÜİK) and the transformation of family-based social networks. Rather than framing digital participation merely as a matter of individual digital literacy or technical adaptation, the study proposes evaluating it within the context of asymmetries between institutional structures and social strata. By comparatively evaluating the digital welfare policies of Sweden, Estonia, and Singapore, which are widely regarded as among the world's leading examples in this field, the article develops a holistic policy framework based on the principles of *epistemic equity* and *age-friendly artificial intelligence architectures*, encompassing proactive state mechanisms, continuous pedagogical support infrastructures at the neighborhood and local administrative levels, and legal regulations.

Keywords

Digital Episteme, Algorithmic Doxa, Risk Society, Sociology of Ageing, Institutional Automation

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